

A²
provides at least sufficient tension to maintain minimum filter gaps during filtering flow.--

A³
--11. (amended) A filter assembly including a cageless filter element as claimed in Claim 1.--

Please add the following new claims:

A⁴
--12. (amended) A filter assembly including a filter element as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the filter element provides at least sufficient tension to maintain minimum filter gaps during filtering flow.

--13. (amended) A filter assembly including a cageless filter element as claimed in Claim 5.----

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the present application.

Claims 12 and 13 have been added.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly requested.

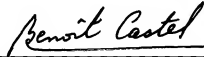
Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



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BC/lmt
Attachments

10078657-022102

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

--6. (amended) A spring filter element as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 5~~, further including a substantial closure extending across the filter element at/or adjacent one end thereof responsive to backwash flow conditions for extending the filter element.--

--9. (amended) A filter assembly including a filter element as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or Claim 5~~, wherein the filter element provides at least sufficient tension to maintain minimum filter gaps during filtering flow.--

--11. (amended) A filter assembly including a cageless filter element as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or Claim 5~~.--

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